



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Memorial Observance

New York State Celebrates
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PATHS TO CHANGE



January 16, 2023



The King Center's 2023 National Theme

***It Starts with Me: Cultivating a Beloved
Community Mindset to
Transform Unjust Systems***



New York State's annual commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be presented as a statewide broadcast event, "New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Paths to Change," airing on PBS stations throughout New York beginning MLK weekend and streaming at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking.



@NYSMLK



Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers join to commemorate the 94th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of our country's most influential leaders whose impassioned crusade for civil rights, equality, and social change transformed the world; during this celebration of his life and legacy, we pay tribute to Dr. King for his tireless commitment to build a more peaceful world – a world free of violence, hatred, prejudice, and discrimination; and

Whereas, we continue to find inspiration in the values Dr. King epitomized, which stirred the collective conscience of America as he led movements and marches that gave a voice to those who had none and sparked a call to action among people of all backgrounds; today, Dr. King's courage and devotion to the quest for true freedom are remembered by people across this nation and the entire world, and his lifelong words and teachings endure in our hearts and minds; and

Whereas, this year we commemorate a significant milestone in the life of Dr. King, as August 28th marks the 60th anniversary of his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech delivered at the historic March on Washington and heard in homes across the country and world; Dr. King's eloquent address is recognized as one of the most powerful and profound orations in American history, and a watershed moment in the civil rights movement; and

Whereas, this year also marks the 60th anniversary of Dr. King's imprisonment in Birmingham, Alabama on April 12, 1963 for his participation in a nonviolent campaign against racism and unjust laws that allowed segregation and other forms of discrimination; Dr. King penned *Letter from Birmingham Jail* in defense of his philosophy of peaceful resistance as a necessary means to ensuring justice in America, summarized in this famous statement, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"; and

Whereas, the values embraced by Dr. King are reflected in the 2023 New York State Memorial Observance theme, "*Paths to Change*," echoing Dr. King's commitment to bringing about social, political, and economic change through peaceful and nonviolent means; this national holiday asks each of us to answer Dr. King's appeal for a world where all people are treated with compassion and ensured the right to a life of dignity that all human beings deserve; and

Whereas, America's greatest asset is its diversity of people whose contributions strengthen our social fabric, making each of us part of the common thread of humankind, and Dr. King understood the connectedness of all communities and the impact that one can have on another; central to Dr. King's philosophy was the concept of community service, and the Empire State maintains this ideal through various initiatives including food drives, book drives, blood drives, volunteer fairs, career fairs, as well as children's educational and creative programs – and we encourage New Yorkers of all ages to honor Dr. King's legacy through charitable work and philanthropic service to benefit the greater good; and

Whereas, few individuals have had such a profound impact on our society as did Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we continue to find solace in his example of strength and perseverance; inspired furthermore by his belief that as one people united in principle and purpose we can and shall overcome all hate, violence, and prejudice, we will forever remember and honor Dr. King for his devotion to humankind and to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice for all;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2023 as

REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

in the Empire State and reaffirm our shared commitment to the goal of building a better world through peaceful, nonviolent social change.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this ninth day of January in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born at noon on Tuesday, January 15, 1929 at the family home in Atlanta, Martin Luther King, Jr. was the first son and second child born to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King.

During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December 1955 until April 4, 1968, African-Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950s and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and "Letter from Birmingham Jail" are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capital. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches, and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly relevant to the progress of humankind.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s nonviolent leadership ended abruptly and tragically on April 4, 1968, when he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King's body was returned to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, where his funeral ceremony was attended by high-level leaders of all races and political stripes. Later in 1968, Dr. King's wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, officially founded The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which she dedicated to being a "living memorial" aimed at continuing Dr. King's work on important social ills around the world.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King



Coretta Scott King was one of the most influential women leaders in our world. Prepared by her family, education, and personality for a life committed to social justice and peace, she entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement. Her remarkable partnership with Dr. King resulted not only in four children, who became dedicated to carrying forward their parent's work, but also in a life devoted to the highest values

of human dignity in service to social change. Mrs. King traveled throughout the world speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, full-employment, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament, and environmental justice. She lent her support to pro-democracy movements world-wide and consulted with many world leaders, including Corazon Aquino, Kenneth Kaunda, and Nelson Mandela.

Born and raised in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston, she met Martin Luther King, Jr. who was then studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, with Coretta Scott King assuming the many responsibilities of a pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

One of the most influential African-American leaders of her time, Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities; authored three books and a nationally-syndicated newspaper column; and served in and helped found dozens of organizations, including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation, and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

Mrs. King died in 2006. A few days after her death, thousands of Atlantans stood in line in the pouring sleet to pay their respects to her at a viewing in Ebenezer Baptist Church. She is today interred alongside her husband in a memorial crypt in the reflecting pool of The King Center's Freedom Hall Complex, visited by hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world each year. The inscription on the crypt memorializing her life of service is from I Corinthians 13:13 – "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

January 16, 2023

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to all residents and visitors attending this year's *New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance*.

New Yorkers proudly join together to pay tribute to an iconic civil rights leader who stirred the conscience of our nation and whose example of strength, hope, and conviction inspired and influenced American society. On this day, we take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to the values that Dr. King embraced over the course of his lifetime and remember his profound words and teachings that continue to resonate in our hearts and minds.

Since 1983, Albany has been the center of activities that celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and his lifelong fight for justice, equality, and social change. Each year fills us with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of Dr. King's philosophy that every person has a fundamental responsibility to serve their community and all of society. During this commemoration of Dr. King's life, New York State supports a diverse program of events that include many initiatives based on service – from food and book drives, to volunteer and career fairs – giving people hope and opportunity for a better future.

We welcome and thank everyone who recognizes the importance of learning about such a beloved and admired leader and the ideals he epitomized. The statewide broadcast of "*New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Paths to Change*" highlights his life and work through the peaceful means of achieving change. Furthermore, we are asked to show our respect for Dr. King and act in ways that improve our cities and neighborhoods, and the lives of our fellow human beings.

Best wishes for a memorable day.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hochul
Governor

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GREETINGS FROM NEW YORK STATE LEADERS

New York State Office of the Attorney General

"I am honored to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his unwavering dedication to freedom and equality. He tenaciously led our nation forward as he sought to achieve revolutionary change through nonviolence, resilience, and a call to conscience. He understood that 'change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.' We continue this effort to build a more perfect union and to ensure the rights we should enjoy as Americans are extended equality throughout this nation. I commend Commissioner Jeanette Moy and the NYS Office of General Services for this fitting tribute of Dr. King, his struggle, and his legacy."

— **Letitia James, Attorney General**

Office of the New York State Comptroller

"The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's mission in life was to bring equal opportunity for people of color in employment, education and civic life. His dream was a country where every one of us would be judged by our actions and abilities, not the color of our skin. Today we honor the Rev. King's memory but acknowledge that more progress needs to be made. Change won't necessarily be easy, but anything that is truly worth attaining rarely is. As Dr. King said: 'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.' Let's remember his amazing work, legacy and his dream."

— **Thomas DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller**

New York State Senate

“I always look forward to the Martin Luther King holiday because it serves as a time of deep reflection and a reminder of enduring hope. It’s a day when we are reminded not only how far we’ve come, but also how far we must go. Recognizing Dr. King acknowledges that our nation’s power doesn’t stem from holding down members of our society, but from recognizing that our American Creed requires justice for all. This is why every year we start off our legislative session passing election reforms to continue fighting and empowering all Americans on a path towards change. It is the right that begets all others and how we hold the people in power accountable. This holiday reminds us of not only Dr. King’s ultimate sacrifice but that history repeats itself and, as Dr. King said, ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.’”

— **Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Majority Leader**

New York State Senate

“The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is the legacy of America. Every single citizen of our great nation owes this Civil Rights leader thanks for his leadership, his words, and his actions. Dr. King often spoke of the inalienable right to freedom and equality and his dream to be judged by character, not skin color. His dream is not just a piece of history — it is one we must all strive towards every day in our own words and actions.”

— **Robert Ortt, Senate Minority Leader**

New York State Assembly

“Every year on the third Monday of January, we commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A man who illustrated the importance of equity for all. He fought for change, cultivating a community mindset to transform prejudiced systems. His legacy has taught us that we are stronger together, and what we can achieve together is so much more than we can on our own. As the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, it is an honor to walk in his footsteps, giving power to positive change.”

— **Carl Heastie, Assembly Speaker**

New York State Assembly

“As an inspirational advocate for justice, equality and peace, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an immeasurable force for positive change and progress. His commitment to creating a better, more unified world changed America, and his leadership paved the way for countless others to continue building a more tolerant nation and world. We will forever be indebted to him for his steadfast resolve and unwavering spirit in the face of immense adversity and resistance.”

— **Will Barclay, Assembly Minority Leader**

City of Albany

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an influential Civil Rights leader and visionary of common humanity and equality. His words, ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle,’ are just as insightful today as the day that he spoke them. Let us pay tribute to Dr. King with a continued commitment to a united front against hatred and injustice.”

— ***Kathy Sheehan, Mayor***

NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports

“Each year, as New Yorkers and Americans, we celebrate the remarkable life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year’s theme, Together We Can Be the Dream, is a poignant reminder that despite the strides that have been made, the dream has not been realized and the work continues. For all those who are dedicated to ending discrimination, injustice, and inequity, his words are the guiding principles and inspiration for this crucial work. To that end, OASAS is focused on overseeing a system of care to treat addiction that is anti-racist, welcoming and inclusive, meets people where they are to address their individual needs, and ensures access in communities across the State. Today we honor Dr. King’s memory, but his legacy lives on through our work each and every day.”

— ***Chinazo Cunningham, Commissioner***

NYS Office for the Aging

“Our society has been fundamentally transformed by Dr. Martin Luther King’s unwavering commitment to equity. Dr. King’s message of love, justice, and righteousness in the face of moral wrongs remains a guiding force for us all. This profound influence is especially felt at the New York State Office for the Aging and by the efforts of our dedicated network of aging services organizations. Every home-delivered meal or community-based intervention is a means to fight food insecurity and address social determinants of health for those in need. Approximately 1 million older adults volunteer nearly half a billion hours of community service each year, serving as a force for principled civic engagement that is very much a legacy of Dr. King’s call to action. We also fundamentally draw inspiration from Dr. King about the power of language to overcome ageism at all levels of society. Today, we are honored to celebrate Dr. King’s legacy – as a reminder of the great progress we have made and the work that remains yet to be done in continuation of this proud legacy.”

— ***Greg Olsen, Acting Director***

NYS Office of Cannabis Management

“The power contained in the words of Martin Luther King as he explained his dream of an America where equality reigns helped set this nation on a new path. We’re proud to carry on this legacy and continue to forge forward by advancing equity and the justice it can bring as we work to undo the harms caused by decades of disproportionate arrests for cannabis, a plant once outlawed by New York State, but no more. We haven’t fully built the world Dr. King dreamed of, but every day we work to bring it closer to reality.”

— ***Chris Alexander, Executive Director***

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

“On this day that we commemorate the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the New York State Office of Children and Family Services commits to Dr. King’s exhortation to urgently respond to the needs of the poor and the oppressed. As we seek new paths towards economic and social justice, equity and peace, we must listen to the communities most impacted by inequity and be bold in our actions.”

— ***Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Acting Commissioner***

The City University of New York

“As we celebrate the legacy, service, and sacrifices of Dr. King as a civil rights leader, we also remember him as an ardent supporter of quality education for all. Dr. King recognized the importance of higher learning in providing a path for equal opportunities to underserved communities. His legacy continues to resonate in CUNY’s mission to educate the next generation of students so that they carry forward and are well-equipped to solve the challenges of the future.”

— ***William C. Thompson Jr., Board of Trustee Chairperson***

The City University of New York

“As we reflect on Dr. King’s life, we are reminded that there is still much to do to bring his vision of equality and unity to fruition. While Dr. King helped to correct our nation’s course and better the lives of those who came after him, the past few years have demonstrated that ending intolerance and discrimination is ongoing work. At the City University of New York, we are inspired by Dr. King’s message as we continue to raise the trajectory of our students’ lives through the transformative power of education. By fostering a community of belonging across our 25 campuses, Dr. King’s example remains as bright and relevant as it did over five decades ago.”

— ***Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor***

NYS Department of Civil Service

“New York State Department of Civil Service’s mission is to build tomorrow’s workforce today by promoting a diverse, inclusive, and talented workforce. The Department leads and delivers world-class workforce management strategies by providing innovative solutions based on merit, fitness, and equality of opportunity. As we assist job-seekers from diverse backgrounds to connect to meaningful opportunities, we faithfully manifest the mission of the Department and actualize Dr. King’s vision of a thriving working class comprised of people from diverse backgrounds. However, there’s more work to be done, so as public servants we must continuously challenge ourselves to honor the legacy of Dr. King by implementing initiatives that will expand our reach and make meaningful and measurable progress as faithful stewards of employment opportunities within New York State.”

— ***Timothy R. Hognes, Commissioner***

NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

“The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision remains steadfast in ensuring that every member of our staff, the population under our care and supervision, and the members of the public with whom we interact are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. We believe in creating the right paths to change as an organization, by adhering to our core values, and inspiring and empowering everyone to realize their greatest potential. We want to ensure that we are continuing the legacy of a man who stood for greatness and fought for equality for all. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.’ At the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, we are committed to humanity and equal rights by fostering an environment in which every individual can positively contribute to creating and enhancing paths for positive change.”

— ***Anthony J. Annucci, Acting Commissioner***

NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became the change he wanted to see in the world through perseverance, public service, and personal sacrifice. Fairness and equality were two values Dr. King relentlessly fought for, and we at the Division of Criminal Justice Services work with those same values in mind with everything we do to support the state’s criminal justice system. Our Division and hundreds of local partners strive to deliver a system of more fair and equal justice that works for, and serves, all New Yorkers.”

— ***Rossana Rosado, Commissioner***

NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

“The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) is proud and honored to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a shining example of what is possible when one person has the courage and strength of character to confront systemic racism and inequality. He has served as a beacon of hope for many communities, including people with developmental disabilities, who drew inspiration from his actions to call for change and demand an end to segregation and institutionalization. While many of the inequities that he fought to address still persist, his example shows us that advancing justice is a lifelong commitment that requires ongoing work, in actions both large and small. We are proud to be a part of this celebration and will continue to be a part of the work to advance justice in New York State.”

— ***Vicky Hiffa, Acting Executive Director***

Dormitory Authority of the State of New York

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, ‘Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man’s sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.’ The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York is proud to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity is central to our mission, and we are committed to creating true opportunities for all.”

— ***Reuben R. McDaniel, III, President and Chief Executive Officer***

NYS Education Department

“On behalf of the Board of Regents and the staff of the State Education Department, I thank you for this opportunity to take part in New York’s observance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Like Dr. King, the great Nelson Mandela believed that a good education is the key to success – for both individuals and civilization. Mandela famously said that ‘education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’ He was, of course, right. And that is why the Regents and the Department are focused so intently on ensuring that every student is supported and valued at school, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any other basis. It is also why we are working so hard to ensure that every student has access to the resources, opportunities, and supports they need to succeed in school. The theme of this year’s Observance, Paths to Change, is a perfect metaphor for the work we are doing at the Education Department. We recognize that all students learn in different ways – and we are therefore intent on providing them with multiple pathways to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Like Dr. King, the Board of Regents, the Education Department and I are committed to lifting up individuals and communities through the limitless power of education.”

— ***Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner***

NYS Office of Employee Relations

“The Office of Employee Relations is honored to support today’s annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year’s theme, Paths to Change, calls us to consider the impact we as New York State employees have on ensuring an inclusive, diverse, and equitable workplace that serves all New Yorkers. In the vision of Dr. King, may we be undeterred from building new and even better paths, making certain that they are available for all to take.”

— **Michael N. Volforte, Director**

NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

“Today and every day we honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in pursuit of equity. This day is not only about remembering the past but working towards the future that Dr. King so courageously envisioned. NYSERDA is proud to honor his legacy and remains committed to marching ahead in support of an equitable and just clean energy transition that addresses systemic inequities and expands economic opportunity for all New Yorkers.”

— **Doreen M. Harris, President & CEO**

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

“On August 28, 1963, a 34-year-old Baptist Minister from Atlanta, Georgia stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to share his dream for a more just and equal nation. Sadly, more than a half century later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream remains out of reach for far too many Americans. That’s why, under Governor Kathy Hochul’s leadership, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is leading on implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the strongest environmental protection laws in the nation centered on replacing racist and discriminatory practices of the past with new policies designed to deliver environmental justice to historically disadvantaged and underserved minority communities. Dr. King’s legacy lives on in New York’s pursuit of social, economic and environmental justice as we transition to a green energy economy of the future that ensures prosperity for all New Yorkers at the expense of none.”

— **Basil Seggos, Commissioner**

NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

“The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a trailblazer in the pursuit of social justice, freedom and equality. The life and legacy of Dr. King is one that has touched many lives and continues to inspire today. The Environmental Facilities Corporation stands proudly with New York State in annually honoring Dr. King and his legacy. This year’s theme, Paths to Change, is an important reminder that there is still much work to be done, and we all must participate in charting paths to change. As we celebrate Dr. King, may we as public servants and citizens strive to never sit idly by and take every opportunity to support and serve paths that lead to positive change. EFC, in implementing our mission, and in the spirit of Dr. King, strives to help all communities affordably invest in clean water infrastructure and ensure the right to a safe and healthy environment for all New Yorkers.”

— **Maureen A. Coleman, President & CEO**

NYS Department of Financial Services

“Dr. King’s voice echoes through the decades, inspiring us to serve others, to fight against injustice everywhere, and to create the beloved community of which he dreamed. As the first Black woman to lead the New York State Department of Financial Services, I am inspired by his powerful and steadfast example of leadership. DFS is proud to follow in his footsteps as we work to promote an equitable, transparent and sustainable financial system for all.”

— ***Adrienne A. Harris, Superintendent***

NYS Gaming Commission

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. endeavored tirelessly at the vanguard of the civil rights movement to ensure a path was carved — one that led to an egalitarian, socially just, and more neighborly America. He believed that ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”’ At the NYS Gaming Commission, we look toward this guiding light as we continue our promise to provide opportunity to students through our ongoing funding of public education across the whole of New York. We’re proud to honor Dr. King’s legacy and ideals today, and we pledge to keep serving and elevating our state’s burgeoning intellects from Buffalo to New York City.”

— ***Robert Williams, Executive Director***

NYS Office of General Services

“As New Yorkers join together to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., all of us must recommit ourselves to his vision of a more united society. We must look to his legacy as New York, and this nation continues our quest for equality and equity. Dr. King taught us that ‘change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.’ As we observe the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, those words remind us that the only way we can live up to Dr. King’s legacy is to continue committing ourselves to the pursuit of justice and redoubling our efforts against racism and inequity. Only by doing what is right for all can we hope to keep Dr. King’s Dream alive.”

— ***Jeanette M. Moy, Commissioner***

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation

“The New York State Education Services Corporation has a long-standing commitment to provide students, who wish to better themselves by furthering their education beyond high school, with the financial support to attend college. Let us uphold the legacy of Dr. King and tear down barriers to higher education for students of every background and status.”

— ***Dr. Guillermo Linares, President***

Hudson River Valley Greenway

“The Civil Rights and the Environmental Movements are linked in their mission to provide equity and to create a better world for the benefit of future generations. The Hudson River Valley Greenway is proud to support the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance and support this year’s theme, ‘Paths to Change.’ The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a unique state agency created to assist with the development of a voluntary regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision making. The Greenway also manages the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service.”

— **Scott Keller, Executive Director**

NYS Division of Human Rights

“The New York State Division of Human Rights works tirelessly to combat hate and bias in our state by enforcing the human rights law. Our mission and the mission of Dr. King are one and the same: To eliminate discrimination, remedy injustice and promote equal opportunity, access, and dignity for all. It is my deep privilege to be leading this agency and its efforts to address hate and bias at this critical juncture in history. DHR is committed to being part of the change that we all want to see in the world.”

— **Maria Imperial, Commissioner**

NYS Office of Information Technology Services

“Dr. King once said, ‘We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.’ The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) remains committed to using technology to promote equal opportunity for all New Yorkers and to strive towards ensuring that the state’s technology workforce looks like America and continues to support new ideas and innovation that originate from all experiences, cultures, races and ethnicities while upholding the values that embodied Dr. King’s dream.”

— **Angelo “Tony” Riddick, Chief Information Officer**

NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

“‘All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.’ — Martin Luther King, Jr.”

— **Denise M. Miranda, Executive Director**

NYS Department of Labor

“Although he is known primarily for his role in the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s relentless dedication to equality was also critical for the labor movement. When his life was tragically cut short in Memphis, Dr. King was in the city to support a union strike by African American sanitation workers. His passion for equity and transforming society for the better continues in the work we do to support the rights of workers across New York State.”

— **Roberta Reardon, Commissioner**

NYS Office of Mental Health

“‘Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.’ - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) believes everyone should have an equal opportunity for mental wellness. This means removing obstacles and implementing services and policies aimed at reducing disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for historically marginalized, underserved, and unserved populations. This also includes recognition of the unique needs of populations facing discrimination in our Country, including discrimination faced by African Americans. The combined burdens of illness, structural racism, and overt violence highlight the enormous stress and behavioral health risks in the African American community. OMH acknowledges these burdens and is dedicated to ensuring marginalized communities have access to support and resources to mitigate mental health needs caused by racism, discrimination, and racial tensions and injustices.”

— Ann Sullivan, MD, Commissioner

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

“As we celebrate the 36th anniversary of the federal holiday in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday – Dr. King’s passion for equity and dedication to uplift masses during our nation’s most difficult times have left an ever-lasting global legacy. Dr. King said in his last public speech: ‘Let us stand with a greater determination and let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be.’ Those words stand true with our agency’s mission to ‘overcome’ through this pandemic and future challenges we will successfully conquer ahead.”

— Janno Lieber, Acting Chair & CEO

NYS Department of Motor Vehicles

“The messages of Dr. King continue to resonate to this day, and the extraordinary times we have lived through these last few years, especially this quote, ‘People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don’t know each other; they don’t know each other because they have not communicated with each other.’ Just a moment taken to listen to another person with a different background or a different worldview can make all the difference toward Dr. King’s dream of a world where we are truly judged just by the content of our character.”

— Mark Schroeder, Commissioner

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

“At the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), we share Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream for equality and respect for all people, including people with developmental disabilities. While OPWDD has accomplished a great deal over the years towards ensuring equity in accessing services for the people we support, we know there is much more work to be done. Today, we celebrate Dr. King’s legacy as we commit to continuing our steadfast pursuit of sustainability and equity in services for the people we serve in a way that is truly meaningful to them.”

— Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner

New York Power Authority & NYS Canal Corporation

“Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. encouraged us to have a larger perspective about what needed to be done and what could be achieved. In our dedication to public service, this is a sentiment that inspires us every day at the New York Power Authority and New York State Canal Corporation as we work together for the greater good and a stronger, sustainable New York State. We are committed to supporting and encouraging a culture where everyone contributes, and everyone belongs. We also extend this commitment to our environmental justice efforts in the communities we serve and the ways in which we support our customers. On our path to creating a clean energy future, we realize this work is bigger than ourselves and, like Dr. King, we see the potential for a better world for all.”

— Justin E. Driscoll, Interim President & Chief Executive Officer

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

“Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, we continue to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this year with the theme of ‘Paths of Change.’ The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is proud that we have expanded our paths, literally and figuratively, to providing better access and more inclusive experiences to not only the citizens of our State but to visitors from all around the world. Former US President Barack Obama said, ‘If you’re walking down the right path and you’re willing to keep walking, eventually you’ll make progress.’ Not only are we continuing to walk in the legacy of Dr. King, but we also have and will continue to make progress. Our agency’s guiding principles are a commitment to people, to preservation, to service, and to leadership. These commitments require pushing forward for change and improvements while recognizing that we live in a world that continues to struggle for full equality. Dr. King said, ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.’ We are continuing to find new ways of being inclusive of all people, embracing diversity, increasing equity, and amplifying the beautiful resources within our State. OPRHP is implementing new initiatives to increase accessibility, in all of its varied forms, to ensure all individuals have greater opportunity to utilize and enjoy New York’s parks, recreational sites, and historic places. We are proud to join Governor Hochul, our colleagues, and partners to honor the promise and legacy of Dr. King and to play a continued role in building a better tomorrow for all New Yorkers.”

— Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner

New York State Police

“As we celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it’s also important to remember that we must continue to build on his legacy. Dr. King said, ‘We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,’ and for the State Police, that sentiment is reflected in our commitment to serve, protect and defend the people of New York, while preserving the rights and dignity for all. If we treat each other with respect and fairness, we can accomplish Dr. King’s dream.”

— **Steven A. Nigrelli, Acting Superintendent**

NYS Department of State

“The Department of State aims to be New York’s leading opportunity creator, an accessible and friendly partner to all who seek empowerment and to strengthen their communities. As we honor Dr. King and this year’s theme of ‘Paths to Change,’ we at the Department of State are proud to provide a diverse array of public services, programs and resources that promote upward mobility, revitalize communities, build resilience, and ensure equity for the people of New York. We embrace Dr. King’s vision as a cornerstone of our efforts, we reaffirm our commitment to racial and economic justice and equality as a core transcendent value in our work, and we recognize that honoring Dr. King’s legacy through our everyday actions is crucial to improving the lives of all New Yorkers.”

— **Robert J. Rodriguez, Secretary of State**

The State University of New York

“Quality education for all was a dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King believed education is a right bestowed upon every American regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic status. Dr. King knew having access to quality education provided students with an opportunity to change their lives and, maybe, the world. Public education changed my life. It’s defined my career. We can continue to honor Dr. King’s legacy by dismantling racial and socioeconomic barriers to achievement and success.”

— **John B. King, Jr., Chancellor**

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s message of equity and inclusion still reverberates across New York State, the country, and the world — giving hope to the oppressed and the excluded. As New Yorkers, we know that diversity is not a weakness; it’s our strength. And we must all strive to carry out Dr. King’s mission for justice, peace, and unity.”

— **Amanda Hiller, Acting Commissioner**

NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

“Dr. King’s historic civil rights legacy and fierce commitment to racial, economic, and social justice, often via nonviolent resistance, offers important lessons that remain relevant to this day. As we celebrate and reflect on the life and work of Dr. King and give thanks for his fearless leadership, which called upon all Americans to live the ideals propounded in our founding documents, this important holiday offers an opportunity to reexamine how we can, in our own lives, embody those shared ideals that he so boldly embraced throughout his life. All of us at the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance confirm our commitment to realizing Dr. King’s vision of true racial and economic justice through which we might find unity and peace.”

— **Daniel W. Tietz, Commissioner**

NYS Thruway Authority

“Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s message serves as a constant reminder to strive for equality and diversity in all aspects of our lives. The New York State Thruway Authority takes great pride in honoring his legacy and leadership on this day of remembrance.”

— **Frances Rosales, Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Programs**

NYS Office of Victim Services

“The message of Dr. King is one of love, hope, and justice, but he recognized that these lofty goals often come with pain and sacrifice. In order to emulate this example, we must be willing to do the work. He forged the paths of racial and social justice, and it is up to us to keep them moving forward. At the Office of Victim Services, we strive every day to live up to Dr. King’s ideals and build upon the foundation he laid out to make great change across our nation.”

— **Elizabeth Cronin, Director**

NYS Workers’ Compensation Board

“In his sermon at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC in 1956, Dr. King said, ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.’ Let Dr. King’s words serve as a reminder that we must never be complacent in our work. At the Board, we will continue to work hard for New York’s injured workers in order to ensure that every person is treated with the dignity and equality that Dr. King envisioned and fought to achieve.”

— **Clarissa M. Rodriguez, Chair**

Host - Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, Sr. Minister, First Church in Albany



The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston is a pastor, chaplain, speaker, veterans advocate, and neurotheologian. She serves as the Senior Minister at the First Church in Albany (RCA). Her work at First Church has reignited a passion for urban ministry and community service through local partnerships. Rev. Walston says this about her ministry in Albany: “The wellness work of

God is right outside the front doors of the church. In a city, we do not have to go far physically to see need. However, we may be called to go further past our own prejudices to meet the need.”

Rev. Walston received a Bachelor of Arts cum laude from Adelphi University and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She has also earned five units of clinical pastoral education, including a chaplain residency at Westchester Medical Center (a Level I trauma center).

Rev. Walston served in the United States Army Reserves, completing basic training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and advanced training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. She was a member of the Chaplain Candidacy Corps.

A proponent of neuroscience and prayer as a means of fostering resilience, Rev. Walston’s doctoral research combined psychology, brain science, and theology. One example of her approach is in teaching individuals how to use centering prayer as a source of healing and refuge. Dr. Walston feels called to collaborate with individuals, faith groups, and community partners for positive relationships on the local, national, and global scenes. Her vision for the First Church in Albany is to faithfully partner and lead with neighbors in the city to grow a strong and healthy community. She believes we are stronger together.

Presenters



Bishop Darius G. Pridgen, Senior Pastor, True Bethel Baptist Church Buffalo, NY

Bishop Darius G. Pridgen is a mentor, servant, community leader, and organizer who serves as the Senior Pastor of True Bethel Baptist Church in Buffalo. His teachings and preaching are heard worldwide through the internet and weekly with four services in two locations in Buffalo's East Side.

Bishop Pridgen and his congregation have learned, "To whom much is given, much is required." The church provides the community with food, clothing, and shelter through True Bethel Charities, Taste of

Faith Food Pantry, True Bethel Clothes Closet, and Nehemiah Arms emergency housing. They provide resources for individuals who find themselves homeless due to fire or have been re-entered into the community and need a helping hand.



Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, Author, Educator, and Producer New York, NY

An award-winning author, educator, and producer, Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz has authored five historical novels, has served as project advisor for the PBS award-winning film, "Prince Among Slaves" documentary, and is currently producing a television series based on her latest two publications, "X a Novel" and "The Awakening of Malcolm X," with Sony Pictures Television's TriStar.

She is Co-Chairperson of the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center (The Shabazz Center). In her work to preserve the legacy of her parents, she has dedicated herself to institution-building and intergenerational leadership development with the tenants of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in public service, education, and the arts, Worcester State University conferred upon Dr. Shabazz the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. She is a member of the Soar Higher Cabinet Committee for SUNY New Paltz, the Advisory Council for the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She also serves as a Trustee for the Harlem Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Shabazz holds a Master of Science in Education and Human Resource Development from Fordham University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from SUNY New Paltz. She is an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, where she teaches Perspectives on Justice in the Africana World. Grounded in the commitments of her parents, Dr. Shabazz emphasizes empowerment and inclusion in her teaching and scholarship. For further information, please visit ilyasahshabazz.com and theshabazzcenter.org



**Jun San, Site Manager, Grafton Peace Pagoda
Petersburg, NY**

While others debate, legislate, argue, maybe even fight over how to make the world a better place to live in, Ju Yasuda, a Japanese-born Buddhist nun, will be walking and praying. Sister Jun Yasuda is a member of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order. This order believes in the power of walking prayer. Since arriving in America in 1978 from her native Tokyo, Sister Jun has organized walks all over the world for justice and peace. From her base at the Grafton Peace Pagoda, located northeast of Albany, Sister Jun has organized and led marches on behalf of the rights of Native Americans, the ending of capital punishment, in memorial to the

evils of slavery, the holocaust, and always for world peace. Sister Jun's Buddhist order is very small, but they like to say it has a very big vision: world peace and justice.

"Everything I do goes from my heart to people's hearts, says Sister Jun, "It is a prayer, not a protest."



**Alexandria Hubbell, Cybrarian &
Community Facilitator, M.K. Gandhi
Institute for Nonviolence
Rochester, NY**

Originally from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Alexandria moved to Rochester at age 2 with her mother. She spent her formative years at the Rochester City School District's John Williams #5 School and School of the

Arts. After graduating from Alfred University with a BFA in Art and Design in 2010, she promptly returned to her community in Rochester, excited to practice on her home turf all that she'd learned.

After serving two consecutive terms in the Rochester AmeriCorps, she moved on to share her love of Solar Punk, reading, art, and social justice with students in Rochester through her work with the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. While at the institute for five joyful years as a cybrarian and community facilitator, Alexandria completed her Master's in School Librarianship at the University at Buffalo. She now works full-time for the Rochester City School District as a school library media specialist at Enrico Fermi School 17, exuberantly modeling lifelong learning to students. Alexandria is married to an artist and advocate, and they live in Rochester with their two cats, Yams and Coffee.



**Kamilah Forbes, Executive Producer, Apollo Theater
New York, NY**

Kamilah Forbes is the Executive Producer of the Apollo in addition to her work as an esteemed award-winning director and producer for theater and television. Ms. Forbes is a powerful leader, widely known for her ability and commitment to continue highlighting the ideas, complexities, and work of artists in the hip-hop community and beyond. She has received awards for directing and producing, including the 2019 NBTF Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award and an NAACP Image Award.

Ms. Forbes' directing credits include "Between the World and Me," "By the Way, Meet Vera Stark," "The Blood Quilt," and "Sunset Baby." This Howard

University alum has also collaborated on "The Wiz Live!," "A Raisin in the Sun," "Mountaintop," and "Stick Fly" on Broadway. She has produced several works for television, most notably the seventh season of the Tony Award and Peabody Award-winning series "Russell Simmons presents Def Poetry" on HBO. Ms. Forbes' most recent directorial work, "Between the World and Me," aired as a special event on HBO and HBO Max in November 2020 to critical acclaim. Outside of her work at the Apollo, Ms. Forbes is slated to direct the Broadway premiere of "Soul Train," alongside Questlove, Dominique Morrisseau, and Camille A. Brown.



**Tanda Francis, Artist
Brooklyn, NY**

Tanda Francis is a Brooklyn-based artist who primarily focuses on creating a monumental African presence in public and personal spaces. She is inspired by ancient customs and rituals as a significant means of understanding and addressing our contemporary condition. She uses her work to activate a dialog of universal origin that crosses cultural barriers.

Francis explores digital and traditional art forms while working and exhibiting her art in solo and group exhibitions locally and internationally.

Francis has created several site-specific monumental public art pieces, including "BIGGIE" (2014), New York City; "Everyone Breaks," Riverside Park, New York City (2015-2016); "And We Breath" (collaborative), Van Cortlandt Park, New York City (2015-2016); "Take Me With You," Socrates Sculpture Park, New York City, (2017-2018); "Adorn Me," Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn (2017-2018); "RockIt Black," Queensbridge Park, Long Island City, New York (2021). Her work was most recently on display at New York's MAD Museum of Art and Design and the cover spread of New York Times Arts and Leisure.



**Gloria Gilbert Stoga, Founder, Puppies Behind Bars
New York, NY**

Gloria Gilbert Stoga founded Puppies Behind Bars in 1997 when she began teaching a group of carefully selected inmates at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, New York's only maximum-security prison for women, to raise service dogs. She brought the first five puppies into prison on the eve of Thanksgiving to begin their training. Puppies Behind

Bars has raised more than 900 dogs and works in six prisons in New York and New Jersey. Puppies Behind Bars trains incarcerated individuals to raise service dogs for wounded war veterans and first responders, facility dogs for police departments, and explosive detection canines for law enforcement.



**Kevin C. Matthews, Deputy Director, The Schomburg Center
for Research in Black Culture
New York, NY**

Mr. Matthews is deputy director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, one of the world's leading cultural institutions devoted to African American and African Diaspora experiences. In his role, Mr. Matthews promotes the center's

vision to facilitate access and community engagement while honoring the tradition of Black literacy and librarianship.

Previously, Mr. Matthews was Area Director for the New York City office of UNCF – the United Negro College Fund. He has the distinction of serving as the fifth and eighth Executive Director of Columbia University's Double Discovery Center, the pre-college division founded in 1965 to house the Upward Bound and Talent Search programs for low-income and first-generation college youngsters. Mr. Matthews attended NYC public schools before completing undergraduate and post-graduate studies at Columbia University. He and his wife live in Harlem and have two adult daughters.



**Danny Hairston, Founder/Executive Director, SHRED
Foundation
Upstate, NY**

Danny Hairston is the founder and CEO of SHRED. Based in upstate New York, the SHRED Foundation works to introduce youth in local rural and urban areas to snowboarding and to open their eyes to the opportunities and growth it provides. By harnessing the unifying power of snow/skate culture, SHRED

works to inspire youth to follow an alternative path and to engage their drive and creativity to follow it.

Danny has 25 years of experience as a youth development specialist. He has served as the former Senior Program Manager for Stoked Mentoring, former Fundraising and Event Coordinator for Burton Snowboards' Chill Foundation, and former Program Director for Hoods to Woods. Danny holds a degree in Public Administration from New York University, is an avid snowboarder, and has worked for over a decade helping to write curriculum and implement youth development programs utilizing board sports.

Performers



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ensemble Capital Region, NY

The 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ensemble is a group of singers who have worked together in previous Capital Region musical events and with

many gospel recording artists. This group of anointed singers is under the musical direction of the Reverend Dr. Elgin Joseph Taylor, Sr. The choir is comprised of vocalists from Macedonia Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Leonard D. Comithier, Jr., Pastor; the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Damone Paul Johnson, Senior Pastor; Greater St. John's Church of God in Christ, Elder McKinnley Johnson, Pastor; Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Elgin Joseph Taylor, Sr., Senior Pastor; and Wilborn Temple Church of God in Christ, Elder Solomon Dees, Pastor. Together, they are some of the Capital Region's finest voices blended in peace and harmony.

For the past 11 years, Reverend Dr. Elgin Joseph Taylor, Sr. has served as the Senior Pastor of the Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, New York. For over 40 years, as an outstanding musical ambassador, Pastor Taylor has become known for his pursuit of musical excellence, displaying some of the best traditions of sacred choral music while simultaneously carving out his own standard of excellence that can be passed to successive musicians.



Alonzo "Zo Zigga" Verbal, Spoken Word Artist Albany, NY

Alonzo "Zo Zigga" Verbal is an actor, community activist, poet, and writer born and raised in Albany, NY. Zo studied at SUNY Morrisville and has a passion for the arts. He has been recognized for his powerful stage performances, mainly about the Black

Experience. Zo inspires his community and uses his platform to advocate for and empower others.



State University of New York, New Paltz, Department of Theatre Arts
“Eye To Eye; Soul To Soul” Excerpts
New Paltz, NY

Lester Mayers, Writer, Actor, Graduate of SUNY New Paltz Department of Theatre Arts

Lester Eugene Mayers is a Brooklyn native who studied at the SUNY New Paltz Department of Theatre Arts and received an MFA from the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics. Mayers was an Artist in

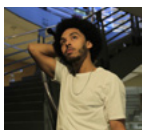
Residence at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Artist in Residence at SoMad.NYC and, most recently, the assistant director to Steve H Broadnax III of the Suzan-Lori Parks world premiere of “Sally & Tom” at the Guthrie Theater.

Gay-Black-Feminine, Mayers tackles aspects of life that the public has historically ignored. He has been published by several publications, including “I Am from Driftwood,” an LGBTQ archive. His first book, “100 Poems for 100 Voices,” resulted in a sold-out poetry tour and a poetry album that received the Visionary Award from the National Advancement of Colored Woman Organization and two New York State proclamations. His other works include “African Booty Scratcha (lovin da ashy-blaq fat chall wit yella teef, peasy head & a broken smile),” “A Spring of Gay-Black-Feminine Joy: A Critical Moment,” and “Love Lessons With Lester.” In 2022, Mayers completed an artist in residency at The Playwrights’ Center, where he wrote and workshopped three plays, one of which, “Swallow From Both Ends,” was endorsed by The Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference. He is also a contributing writer on “Between Certain Death and a Possible Future.”

Catherine Doherty, Director

Catherine is the Head of the Performance Concentration in the Theatre Arts Department at SUNY New Paltz. Professor Doherty holds a Master of Fine Arts in Performance and a Master of Fine Arts in Direction from the American Film Institute.

Catherine is a proud member of both Actors’ Equity Association and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.



Nathan Benitez, Actor

From The Bronx, Nathan Benitez is a theatre major at SUNY New Paltz with a concentration in Performance and a double minor in Black Studies and Art Studio.

Angelina Bell, Actor

An early career theatre artist from Westchester, Angelina Bell is a fourth-year theatre arts student at SUNY New Paltz.

Max Rosenfeld, Lighting Consultant

Max Rosenfeld is a sophomore at SUNY New Paltz who has been working as an electrician since the 2021-2022 season. They have also worked at the Gateway Playhouse as a carpentry intern and a carpentry/electrician apprentice.

Community Initiatives



New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art and Essay Exhibition

The virtual gallery will be available for viewing at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking from January 11 to February 28, 2023.

Every year New York State schools and their K-12 students are invited to submit artworks and essays that reflect on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The categories are painting, drawing, photography, and writing. More than 80 schools participated with over 2,000 artworks and essays submitted.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Food Drive December 9, 2022 to February 10, 2023

In keeping with Dr. King's legacy, the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive will mark the 23rd anniversary of the community service initiative. New York State Agencies and several community-based organizations helped to collect over 710,317 pounds of food and raised over \$135,962 in monetary donations to date. Donations are collected and distributed in every region of the state; from the major urban areas of New York City, Albany, and Buffalo, to the rural towns of Sherburne, and Ogdensburg. The food drive is co-sponsored by the Food Bank Association of New York State.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Statewide Book Drive February 20 to April 21, 2023

The purpose of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Children's Literacy Drive is to collect new or gently used children's books for distribution to elementary, middle, and high schools, and to after school programs across the State. The program continues to grow beyond expectations each year. Since 2004, through the continued partnership with the Albany City School District's Literacy Programs, Project Flight (Buffalo State College), and Reach Out and Read, Greater New York, 402,055 books have been collected.



Support for the production of the

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE**

is provided by the following:



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

JAN 16, 2023

"Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK (DASNY)
IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DIVERSITY IS CENTRAL TO OUR MISSION AND
WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING TRUE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL .



A portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is positioned on the right side of the upper half of the page. He is wearing a dark suit and tie, looking slightly to the left. The background behind him and the quote is a collage of geometric shapes in shades of blue, green, orange, and brown. The quote is written in a white, sans-serif font, with large opening and closing quotation marks.

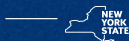
“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The principles of Dr. King are etched in the cornerstones of the DOL mission.

We celebrate his memory by providing outstanding support to help workers and businesses grow and thrive, by connecting people to new job opportunities, and by educating and protecting our workers and businesses.

WE ARE YOUR DOL



**Department
of Labor**

labor.ny.gov/jobs

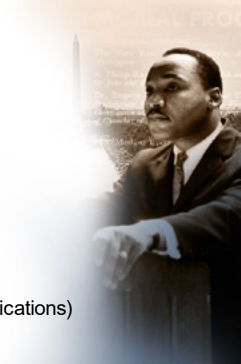


Corrections and Community Supervision

The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is committed to the vision and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and strives to ensure equal employment opportunities to all qualified employees and job candidates, consistent with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the NYS Human Rights Law. The Department is also committed to the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all employment actions, in compliance with the mandates Executive Order No. 187.

Our Department is continuously looking for qualified candidates from all backgrounds to fill a variety of positions throughout the State, including but not limited to:

- Correction Officers
- Parole Officers
- Clinical Physicians
- Correctional Regional Health Service Administrators
- Registered Professional Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Dentists and Dental Hygienists
- Plant Utilities Helpers
- Plant Utilities Assistants
- Plant Utilities Engineers 1
- Instructors of the Blind
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (Manual Communications)
- Manual Communicators (American Sign Language)



For more information on the diverse job opportunities DOCCS has to offer, please visit <https://doccs.ny.gov/employment-opportunities> and the New York State Department of Civil Service at <http://www.cs.ny.gov/>, where you can sign up to receive email notifications when new exams are announced. You may also contact the Department of Civil Service at 1-877-697-5627.

**The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is an
Equal Opportunity Employer.**



Justice Center for the
Protection of People
with Special Needs

**"INJUSTICE
ANYWHERE
IS A THREAT
TO JUSTICE
EVERYWHERE."**

Martin Luther King Jr.

www.justicecenter.ny.gov





“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, JR.

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) believes everyone should have an equal opportunity for mental wellness. This means removing obstacles and implementing services and policies aimed at reducing disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for historically marginalized, underserved, and unserved populations. This also includes recognition of the unique needs of populations facing discrimination in our Country, including discrimination faced by African Americans. The combined burdens of illness, structural racism, and overt violence highlight the enormous stress and behavioral health risks in the African American community. OMH acknowledges these burdens and is dedicated to ensuring marginalized communities have access to support and resources to mitigate mental health needs caused by racism, discrimination, and racial tensions and injustices.

— Ann Sullivan, MD, Commissioner

MTA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Small Business Mentoring Program | Small Business Federal Program

Build your business with the MTA

Small Business Development Program

Anticipated 2023 Awards:
80 projects | \$80 million

- Prime contracts from \$100,000 to \$3 million
- Business loans up to \$900,000
- Payments within 10 business days
- Free classroom training

All construction trades needed



Build with us:
mta.info/sbdp



ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION AWARDS FOR 2023:
80 PROJECTS | \$80 MILLION

Apply Today!
mta.info/sbdp

MTA DEPARTMENT OF DIVERSITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS



“ We cannot walk alone.
And as we walk, we
must make the pledge
that we shall always
march ahead.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
August 28, 1963



**NY Power
Authority**

**Canal
Corporation**



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's message serves as a constant reminder to strive for equality and diversity in all aspects of our lives. The New York State Thruway Authority takes great pride in honoring his legacy and leadership on this day of remembrance.

The Thruway Authority can help set you on an enriching career path that will further our mission of providing customers with high levels of safety and service on our roadway. With numerous training opportunities and tuition assistance, we look forward to helping you fulfill your professional and personal goals.

For more information about employment with the Thruway Authority, please visit our website:

thruway.ny.gov

Or call toll free at:

1-800-525-3586

The New York State Thruway Authority is an equal opportunity employer.



**Thruway
Authority**



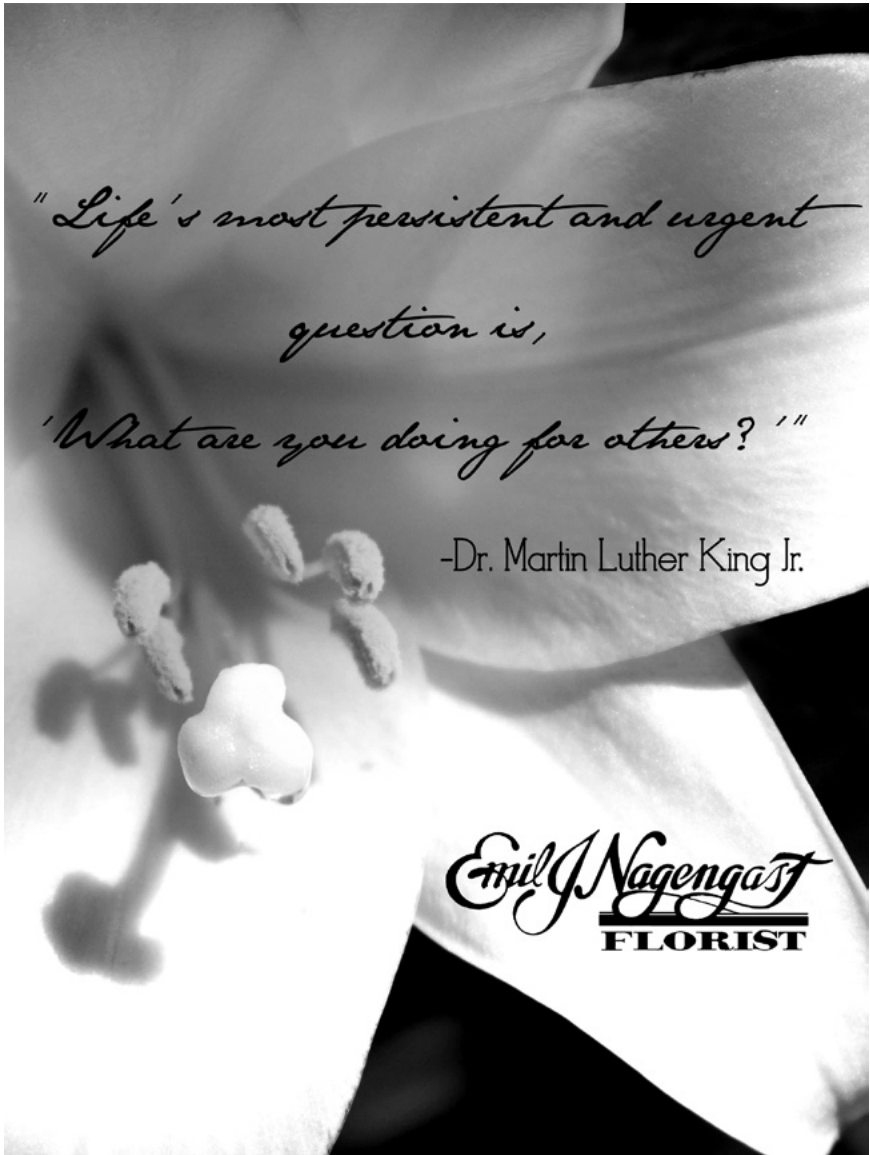
New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



Hundreds of participants, including New York State My Brother's Keeper students, their mentors, and state education leaders joined the virtual MBK Symposium in Spring 2022.

The New York State Board of Regents and State Education Department honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy through our My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative. The New York State MBK movement expanded to 33 member communities in 2022 and continues to grow. We remain committed to ensuring that all young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential.





*"Life's most persistent and urgent
question is,*

'What are you doing for others?'"

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Emil Nagengast
FLORIST

**“There is nothing new about poverty.
What is new is that we now have
the techniques and the resources to
get rid of poverty. The real question
is whether we have the will.”**

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is proud to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we continue to empower New Yorkers and provide life-changing opportunities.

www.otda.ny.gov

Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress.



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

“Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

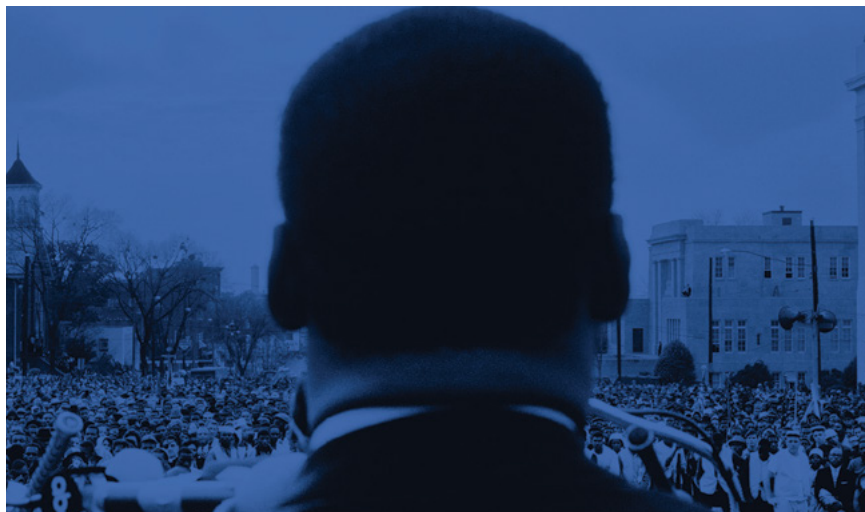
At the New York Lottery, we hold fast to this notion as we continue our work to provide opportunity to students across the whole of New York State.

The New York Lottery is honored to aid in the ongoing cultivation of New York’s young, flourishing intellects. Only through investing in our youth can we take solace in a brighter tomorrow.



**Gaming
Commission**





The City University of New York
honors the legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

on the occasion of the

2023 New York State
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Memorial Observance

January 16, 2023

William C. Thompson, Jr.
Chairperson, Board of Trustees



Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

Battery Park City Authority

The Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) is a Class A New York State public benefit corporation.

WHAT WE DO

The BPCA's mission is to plan, create, co-ordinate and maintain a balanced community of commercial, residential, retail, and park space within its designated 92-acre site on Manhattan's lower west side known as Battery Park City. Parcels of land are leased to developers who build in accordance with the Authority's guidelines, which also incorporate green provisions mandating state of the art environmental specifications to maximize energy efficiency and minimize water usage. With more than five million square feet of environmentally sustainable construction on its 92-acre site, Battery Park City is the largest "green" neighborhood in the world.

DOOR OPENERS: INSIGHT ON NAVIGATING BPCA

BPCA endorses a competitive public bidding process and, as such, solicits bids from contractors for work throughout Battery Park City. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are posted in the New York State Contract Reporter and the New York City Record as well as the BPCA's website: www.bpca.ny.gov.

Pursuant to Article 15-A of the Executive Law and regulations adopted thereunder, BPCA has established goals for the participation of certified minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) in the performance of services under contract with BPCA. The language of Article 15A appears in all of BPCA's leases.

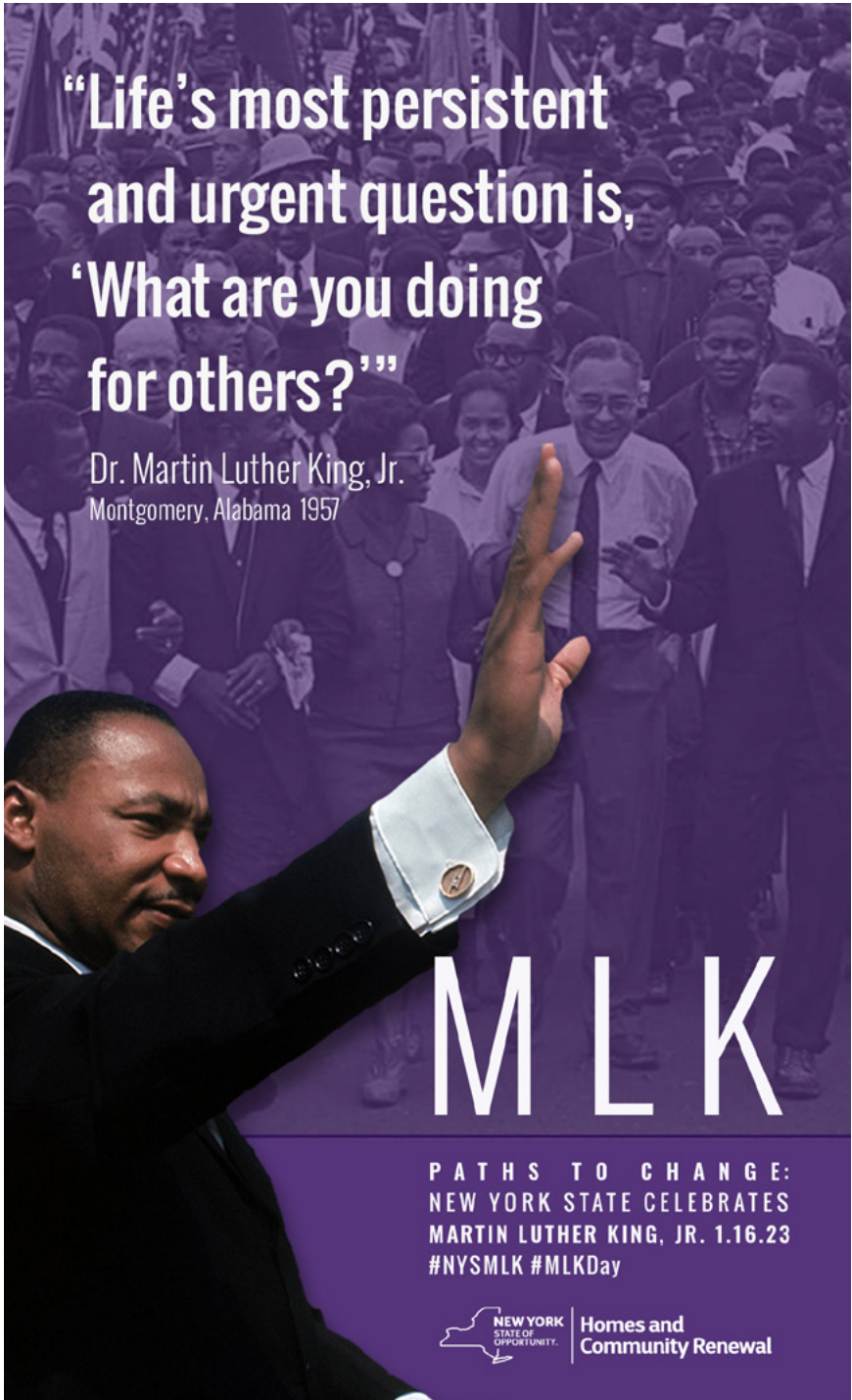
These goals have been prescribed as percentages of the overall proposal/contract dollar amount. BPCA's goals are placed on construction contracts totaling over \$100,000, and procurement contracts over \$25,000. MWBE-certified firms are found in the Directory of Certified MWBEs offered by Empire State Development.

BPCA is a major sponsor of The Competitive Edge Conference. Held annually, the conference provides an excellent opportunity for MWBEs to network with City, State and Private Sector firms. For more information, visit The Competitive Edge's website. (www.competitiveedge.org)

HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

Battery Park City Authority
Diversity@bpca.ny.gov
Tel. 212-417-2000
200 Liberty Street, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10281-1097
www.bpca.ny.gov





“Life’s most persistent
and urgent question is,
‘What are you doing
for others?’”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Montgomery, Alabama 1957

MLK

PATHS TO CHANGE:
NEW YORK STATE CELEBRATES
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 1.16.23
#NYSMLK #MLKDay



Homes and
Community Renewal

An individual has not started **LIVING**
until he can **RISE ABOVE** the narrow
confines of his individualistic
concerns to the broader concerns
of all humanity.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Today, we celebrate the power of service to others, and
honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. through our commitment
to making our communities better places to live, work and play.



We're not just in your neighborhood, we're your neighbor.

F A I T H

“You don’t have to see
the whole staircase.
Just take the first step.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

OASAS.ny.gov



Department of Taxation and Finance

In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
Team Tax is committed to promoting
diversity, equity, and inclusion.



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NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



**ALL ARE
WELCOME
HERE**

parks.ny.gov



INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.

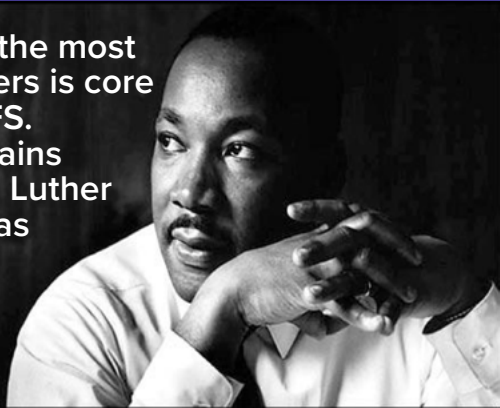
- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

By working for a more fair and equitable financial system, the Department of Financial Services is proud to march in Dr. King's footsteps to create paths of change for individuals, families, and communities.

Learn more at:
<https://www.dfs.ny.gov/careers>



Serving and uplifting the most vulnerable New Yorkers is core to the mission of OCFS. Our commitment remains inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s bold vision as shared in **“Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?”**



“One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. But today our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.”



Office of Children
and Family Services



Developmental
Disabilities
Planning Council

**A beacon of hope for so many.
MLK's words and work
continue to inspire change.**



**"I have decided to stick with love.
Hate is too great a burden to bear."**

— DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

OVS is thankful for its team and partners who
help New Yorkers navigate paths created by
unforeseen circumstances. The journey may at times
be difficult, but you are **never alone**.



Office of
Victim Services

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an influential Civil Rights leader and visionary of common humanity and equality. His words, ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle’ are just as insightful today as the day that he spoke them. Let us pay tribute to Dr. King with a continued commitment to a united front against hatred and injustice.”



 **Division of Human Rights**

**COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND ENFORCING
THE NYS HUMAN RIGHTS LAW SINCE 1945**



**"I have decided to stick with love.
Hate is too great a burden to
bear." - Martin Luther King Jr.**



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AND URGENT QUESTION IS
**WHAT ARE YOU DOING
FOR OTHERS?**”



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and inclusion for everyone,
in every workplace.



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"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

- Martin Luther King Jr.



**Department of
Motor Vehicles**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

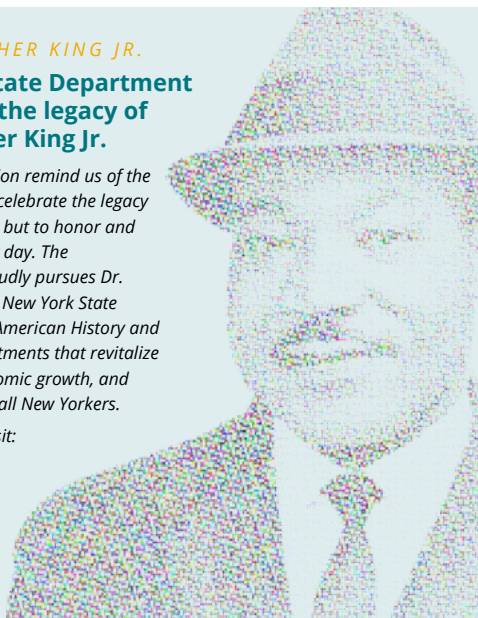
The New York State Department of State honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Recent events in our nation remind us of the critical need to not only celebrate the legacy and memory of Dr. King, but to honor and advance his legacy every day. The Department of State proudly pursues Dr. King's vision, hosting the New York State Commission on African American History and providing strategic investments that revitalize communities, spur economic growth, and create opportunities for all New Yorkers.

To learn more, please visit:



or visit ny.gov/nyscaah



**Department
of State**

The New York State Office for the Aging
honors the life and legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. King's commitment to social justice and equity echo today in the civic contributions of older adults and in the work of aging services providers to support their needs.



**“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**EFC IS COMMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND
PROVIDING CLEAN WATER FUNDING
TO THE COMMUNITIES THAT NEED IT MOST.**





Department of
Civil Service

MAKE A CAREER OF HUMANITY.

Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.

March for Integrated Schools, April 18, 1959

THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE PROUDLY PURSUES DR. KING'S VISION BY BUILDING A DIVERSE, TALENTED AND INCLUSIVE STATE WORKFORCE THAT PROVIDES SERVICES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS. LEARN MORE AT [CS.NY.GOV](https://cs.ny.gov)

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PC. RICHARD & SON

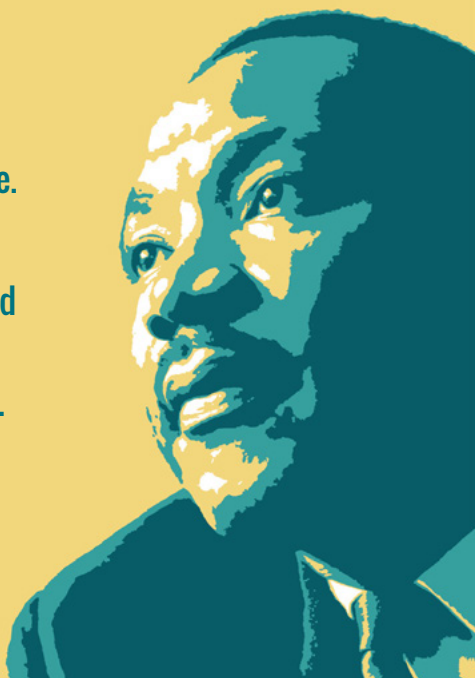
proudly sponsors the
2023 Memorial Observance for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King was committed
to building a path toward
economic and social justice.

Today, we strive to uphold
his legacy as we give injured
workers paths to recovery
and a return to their labors.



Workers'
Compensation
Board



**Division of Criminal
Justice Services**

***DCJS** is honored to support this year's
celebration. We thank our teams that work day
in and day out to prevent and reduce violence,
provide resources to communities in need, and
assist local partners in keeping New Yorkers safe.
The paths laid before us are filled with obstacles,
but together we can overcome.*

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice
everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable
network of mutuality, tied in a single garment
of destiny. **Whatever affects one directly,
affects all indirectly.**"

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

**Department of
Civil Service**

MAKE A CAREER OF HUMANITY.

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The power contained in the words of Martin Luther King as he explained his dream of an America where equality reigns helped set this nation on a new path.

We're proud to carry on this legacy and continue to forge forward by advancing equity and the justice it can bring as we work to undo the harms caused by decades of disproportionate arrests for cannabis, a plant once outlawed by New York State, but no more.

We haven't fully built the world Dr. King dreamed of, but every day we work to bring it closer to reality.



**Office of Cannabis
Management**

NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

**Hudson River
Valley Greenway**

Hudson River Valley Greenway
www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov

The Civil Rights and the Environmental Movements are linked in their mission to provide equity and to create a better world for the benefit of future generations. The Hudson River Valley Greenway is proud to support the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a unique state agency created to assist with the development of a voluntary regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision making. The Greenway also manages the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service.



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“Economic justice [requires] a land where men will not take necessities to give luxuries to the few, and where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets is proud to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy as a lifelong advocate for food security and racial equity for all. By working to increase, sustain, and diversify farming and land access across the state, we hope to build a stronger, more resilient, and more equitable New York.

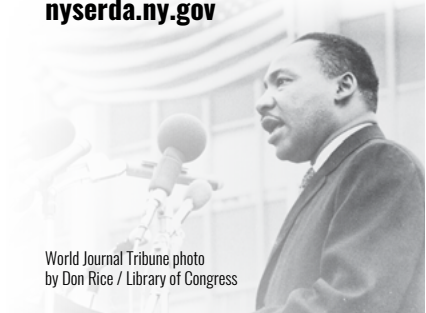
 **NEW YORK**
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Agriculture and Markets

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Proud to advance clean energy innovation and investments to combat climate change, improving the health, resiliency, and prosperity of New Yorkers, and **delivering benefits equitably to all**

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World Journal Tribune photo
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Justice. Equality. Peace.



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New York State Education Department
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New York State Office of Employee Relations
New York State Higher Education Services Corporation
New York State Homes and Community Renewal
New York State Insurance Fund
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New York State of Health
New York State Office for the Aging
New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
New York State Office of Mental Health
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
New York Office of Victim Services
New York State Police
New York State Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation
New York State Thruway Authority
New York State Worker's Compensation Board
P.C. Richard & Son
Price Chopper and Market 32
Schenectady County Human Rights Commission

Special Thanks to:

The New York State Office of General Services would like to express its gratitude to everyone who made this program a part of today's celebration. Your tireless efforts in remembering, celebrating, and acting on the lessons passed on by Dr. King will help ensure that his message will continue to live on and grow stronger.

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If that's you,
join us.

suny.edu/go



The State University
of New York

